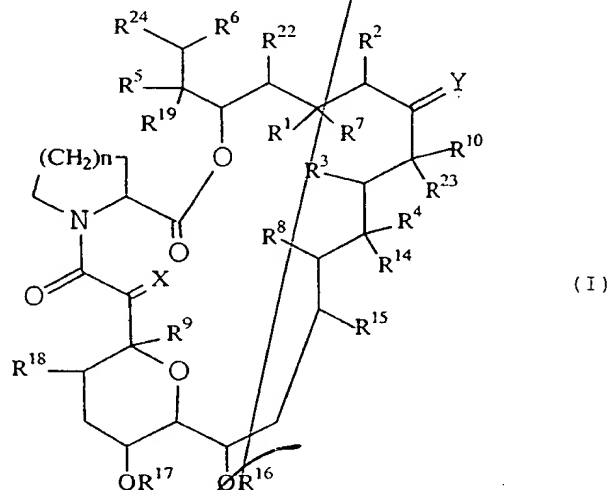


CLAIMS

1. A use of macrolide compounds for manufacturing an agent for preventing or treating pain.
2. The use of Claim 1, in which the macrolide compounds is the tricyclic compounds of the following formula (I):



(wherein each of adjacent pairs of R¹ and R², R³ and R⁴, and R⁵ and R⁶ independently

(a) is two adjacent hydrogen atoms, but R² may also be an alkyl group or

(b) may form another bond formed between the carbon atoms to which they are attached;

R⁷ is a hydrogen atom, a hydroxy group, a protected hydroxy group, or an alkoxy group, or an oxo group together with R¹;

R⁶ and R⁹ are independently a hydrogen atom or a hydroxy group;

R¹⁰ is a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkyl group substituted by one or more hydroxy groups, an alkenyl group, an alkenyl group substituted by one or more hydroxy groups, or an alkyl group substituted by an oxo group;

X is an oxo group, (a hydrogen atom and a hydroxy group), (a

hydrogen atom and a hydrogen atom), or a group represented by the formula $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$;

Y is an oxo group, (a hydrogen atom and a hydroxy group), (a hydrogen atom and a hydrogen atom), or a group represented by the formula $\text{N}-\text{NR}^{11}\text{R}^{12}$ or $\text{N}-\text{OR}^{13}$;

R^{11} and R^{12} are independently a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group or a tosyl group;

R^{13} , R^{14} , R^{15} , R^{16} , R^{17} , R^{18} , R^{19} , R^{22} and R^{23} are independently a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group;

R^{24} is an optionally substituted ring system which may contain one or more heteroatoms;

n is an integer of 1 or 2; and

in addition to the above definitions, Y, R^{10} and R^{23} , together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached, may represent a saturated or unsaturated 5- or 6-membered nitrogen, sulfur and/or oxygen containing heterocyclic ring optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from the group consisting of an alkyl, a hydroxy, an alkoxy, a benzyl, a group of the formula $-\text{CH}_2\text{Se}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)$, and an alkyl substituted by one or more hydroxy groups; or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

3. A method for preventing or treating pain, which comprises administering macrolide compounds to mammals.

4. A pharmaceutical composition for preventing or treating pain, which comprises macrolide compounds in admixture with a carrier or excipient.

5. A use of the macrolide compounds for preventing or treating pain.

6. The macrolide compound used in Claims 1 to 5 is FK 506 Substance or its hydrate.

7. A use of macrolide compounds for manufacturing an

analgesic for topical use.

8. A use of macrolide compounds for manufacturing a medicament for preventing or treating pain caused by arthritis.

9. The use of Claim 8, in which the medicament is for topical administration.

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